

Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.
Western District of New York

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UNION PRESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY TO EMBEZZLEMENT

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Guy Masocco, 62, of Buffalo, New York pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara to embezzlement of labor union assets. The charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael DiGiacomo, who is handling the case, stated that the defendant is the Union President of Steelworkers Local 897 which represents over 100 members employed at ITT Heat Transfer Inc., in Cheektowaga, New York. From December 2004 through November 2009, Masocco used his union credit card for personal expenses. In addition, the defendant also submitted claims to the union for reimbursement of wages he claimed he lost while conducting union business. A review of company payroll records revealed Masocco was paid for some of the same days and times he was reimbursed by the union. As a result, Local 897 lost approximately \$31,700.00.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Department of Labor Office of Labor and Management Standards under the direction of District Director Joseph S. Wasik.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 5, 2012 at 12:30, at in Buffalo, N.Y., before Judge Arcara.

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